

## No MIAs Still Alive, CIA Official Asserts

United Press International

There is no evidence that any American prisoners of war are still alive in Southeast Asia, the CIA reports on the basis of previously classified information.

The agency's deputy director, Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, told the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia yesterday: "I regret I cannot tell you that there are American prisoners left in Indochina. The hard evidence is there is not."

However, Walters told the committee that some governments, particularly North Vietnam, could quickly clear up questions about Americans missing in action if they would supply information clearly in their possession.

Walters said the CIA collected an enormous amount of information on a top-priority basis for more than a decade in trying to pin down information about the American prisoners and missing in action.

Walters said that "it is believed that North Vietnam holds significant amounts of accurate information on former and current American missing or

killed in action in Southeast Asia."

U.S. records show more than 800 MIA cases still unresolved.

"We should hold their (North Vietnam's) feet to the humanitarian fire until they give out the information," Walters said. "We should tell them that this isn't how civilized nations operate."

He described as "not accurate" a report quoting Rev. Paul Lindstrom of Chicago as saying some Americans are being held in a border area in or near China.

And he said the CIA now has provided the House committee with all the information it has on the subject.